

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.(currently amended) A joining structure in a laminate [[(1)]] comprising:

a plurality of metal layers; ~~(3-6) as well as and~~

at least one adhesive layer ~~(12)~~ which is enclosed by the plurality of metal layers (3-6), ~~which~~ said plurality of metal layers (3-6) each comprise separate metal-layer parts ~~(7,8)~~ having a first pair of overlapping edges ~~(9,10)~~, ~~which~~ said first pairs of edges (9,10) are offset with respect to each other and together define a continuous joining region [[(2)]], ~~characterized in that the laminate(1) comprises~~

a first section ~~(14) which~~ of said laminate is of standard construction and a second section ~~(15) which~~ of said laminate contains an additional, internal reinforcing metal layer ~~(16)~~, said reinforcing metal layer ~~(16)~~ comprising two reinforcing metal-layer parts ~~(17,18)~~ with a second pair of overlapping edges ~~(19,20)~~, said second pair of edges ~~(19,20)~~ being located outside the joining region.

2.(currently amended) The joining structure as claimed in claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein each of the plurality of metal layers

~~(3-6)~~ has a metal-layer part ~~[(7)]~~ with a jogged edge ~~[(9)]~~ in such a manner that the metal- layer parts ~~(7,8)~~ are substantially in line with one another.

3.(currently amended) The joining structure as claimed in claim 2, ~~in which a~~ wherein one of said reinforcing metal-layer ~~part (17,18)~~ parts is jogged ~~(23)~~ over the jogged edge ~~[(9)]~~ of the jogged metal layer part ~~[(7)]~~ to form a jogged portion~~(26)~~.

4.(currently amended) The joining structure as claimed in claim 3, ~~in which~~ wherein the jogged portion ~~(26)~~ of said one of the reinforcing metal-layer ~~part~~ parts ~~(17,18)~~ is then jogged ~~(24)~~ in the opposite direction towards the other, associated metal-layer part ~~[(8)]~~ to form a second jogged portion ~~(27)~~.

5.(currently amended) The joining structure as claimed in claim 4, ~~in which~~ wherein said one of the reinforcing metal-layer ~~part (17)~~ parts is subsequently jogged ~~(25)~~ in the same direction as said jogged edge ~~[(9)]~~ of the jogged metal-layer part ~~[(7)]~~ over ~~the other~~ another one of said reinforcing metal-layer ~~part (18)~~ parts to form a third jogged portion or jogged edge ~~(19)~~.

6.(currently amended) The joining structure as claimed in claim 5, ~~in which~~ wherein a metal-layer part ~~[(7)]~~ of a further metal layer ~~[(6)]~~ extends over the portion ~~(27)~~, jogged ~~(24)~~ in the opposite direction, of the first one of reinforcing metal-layer ~~part (17)~~ parts to form a spacing between the edge ~~[(9)]~~ of the metal-layer part of the further metal layer ~~[(7)]~~ and the portion ~~(27)~~, jogged ~~(24)~~ in the opposite direction, of the first one of reinforcing metal-layer ~~part (17)~~ parts, in such a manner that the edge ~~(10)~~ of ~~the other~~ another metal-layer part ~~[(8)]~~ of the further metal layer ~~[(6)]~~ extends as far as the region where ~~this~~ said spacing occurs.

7.(currently amended) The joining structure as claimed in claim 6, ~~in which~~ wherein the other metal-layer part ~~[(8)]~~ is jogged, from the region where ~~this~~ said spacing occurs, over the edge ~~(19)~~ of the reinforcing metal-layer part ~~(17)~~ jogged in the same direction, and is then jogged in the opposite direction.

8.(currently amended) The joining structure as claimed in claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the first and second pairs of edges ~~(9,10,19,20)~~ of the reinforcing metal layer parts, in the direction transverse to the direction in which the first and second pairs of edges ~~(9,10,19,20)~~ overlap, are of different sizes in order to provide a stepped joggle arrangement ~~(28,29)~~

of the metal layer ~~[[6]]~~ covering the reinforcing metal-layer parts ~~(17,18)~~.

9.(currently amended) The joining structure as claimed in claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein each adhesive layer ~~(12)~~ runs on continuously over the first and second parts of overlapping edges ~~(9,10,19,20)~~.

10. (new) A joining structure in a laminate comprising:

a plurality of metal layers; and

at least one adhesive layer which is enclosed by the plurality of metal layers, said plurality of metal layers each comprise separate metal-layer parts having a first pair of overlapping edges, said first pairs of edges are offset from each other and immediately adjacent to each other and together define a joining region,

a first section of said laminate is of standard construction and a second section of said laminate contains an additional, internal reinforcing metal layer, said reinforcing metal layer comprising two reinforcing metal-layer parts with a second pair of overlapping edges, said second pair of edges being located outside the joining region.

11. (new) A joining structure and a laminate comprising:

a plurality of metal layers; and

at least one adhesive layer which is enclosed by the plurality of metal layers, said plurality of metal layers each comprise separate metal-layer parts having a first pair of overlapping edges, said first pairs of edges are offset with respect to each other and together define a joining region,

a first section of said laminate is of standard construction and includes said plurality of metal layers, and

a second section of said laminate includes said plurality of metal layers and contains an additional, internal reinforcing metal layer, said reinforcing metal layer comprising two reinforcing metal-layer parts with a second pair of overlapping edges, said second pair of edges being located outside the joining region, said reinforcing metal layer only being within said second section.